



State Representative Robert M. Ward

Dear Friends,

As 2005 draws to a close, it is time to look back on what we accomplished during the regular and special legislative sessions in Hartford. The political landscape was marked by change - a new Governor and Senate and House Leadership. Landmark events, including the state's first execution, same sex unions and taxpayer financed campaigns were debated.

Working without regard to partisan politics and following the lead of Gov. Rell, we made long-term commitments to ease transportation problems throughout the state. This \$1 billion initiative will add hundreds of commuter rail cars over time, expand ferry service in Long Island Sound, enhance commercial barge routes and bring improvements to the I-95 and I-84 corridors.

After seven years of debate, the legislature banned hand-held cell phones in order to make our roads safer.

During the recent special session, we extended prescription drug coverage for thousands of seniors and others who otherwise could have been forced to pay higher out-of-pocket expenses.

As House Republicans, we voted to protect the state's constitutional spending cap from further erosion. We also voted to restrict the use of eminent domain to acquire private property and called for a statewide moratorium on the taking of any private property until our eminent domain laws are amended.

Despite all these advancements unfinished business remains to be addressed in the nest session beginning in February. Protecting taxpayers' pocketbooks and fixing the broken education funding formula will be a priority.

As always, I look forward to the challenges facing the people of our district. Thank you for the honor and privilege of representing the 86th District in our state legislature in Hartford.

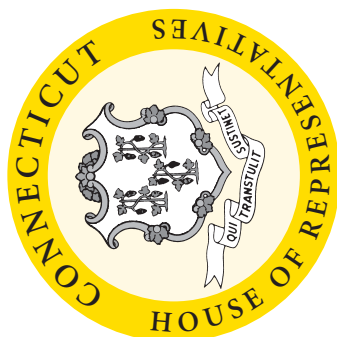
Sincerely,

Robert M. Ward



Prior to the start of the 2005 Legislative Session, Representative Ward and fellow State Representatives introduce the "Connecticut Peace of Mind Agenda."

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State Representative
ROBERT M. WARD
Proudly Serving the 86th District
North Branford ★ East Haven ★ Wallingford



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2005 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
ROBERT M. WARD
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Representative Ward speaks on the floor of the House during the 2005 Legislative Session.



State Ethics and Contracting Reform

For a third year, the legislature took action to continue tightening the state's already tough contracting process and ethics requirements. We replaced the Ethics Commission with a Citizens' Advisory Board with greater authority to act upon ethics complaints.

Fighting for Fair School Funding

For children, many colleagues and I will continue the fight for fair funding of public education. The state school aid formula now sends \$9,000 per pupil to students in the cities, while suburban children receive state funding as low as \$100.

School Nutrition

Majority legislators wanted to tell local schools what kinds of food and drink to sell to students. I believe childhood nutrition is best left up to parents and locally elected school leaders and voted against the measure that did not become law.

Transportation Action

The legislature adopted the governor's \$1.3-billion transportation package to replace the aging 342-car Metro-North commuter rail fleet, purchase more buses and eliminate numerous I-95 bottlenecks. New equipment for a modern, reliable rail alternative to clogged highways should be delivered starting in 2008.

Cell Phone Ban

Based on recommendations by law enforcement officials and many members of the public, the state House and Senate came to agreement on banning the dangerous use of hand-held phones while driving.

Clean Diesel Plan

The legislature took action to reduce diesel emissions from school buses, transit buses and trucks on our streets and highways.



Representative Ward holds a press conference in the Legislative Office Building to outline his proposal to introduce testing for steroid use in high school athletics.

PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

Voting for Fiscal Responsibility

During the 2005 session, I along with many colleagues spoke out for the average family. We know how hard people work, especially in a high tax state like Connecticut. Residents here pay the highest federal, state and local taxes per person. We have the largest per capita state debt and a huge unfunded liability for teachers' and state employee pensions.

Honoring the Spending Cap

We fought efforts by special interest groups to increase spending and taxes faster than peoples' incomes. We voted to honor the constitutional spending cap approved in 1992 by an overwhelming 80 percent of statewide voters.

Protecting Jobs

Job creation is the most critical issue we face and Connecticut has lagged the nation in job creation, income growth, and economic expansion. Now is not the time to impose job-killing higher taxes and regulation on small and mid-sized employers. We voted to hold down excessive spending increases and regulation.

Voting for Property Rights/Curbing Eminent Domain

I am concerned about the growing power of government to interfere in peoples' lives at home, at work and in schools. Even prior to the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case involving New London property owners I spearheaded legislative efforts to curb the use of eminent domain and limit the government's ability to take property through eminent domain. I intend to again propose legislation for an immediate moratorium so no homeowner would be forced off their property without mediation from an ombudsman.

Landlord Identification

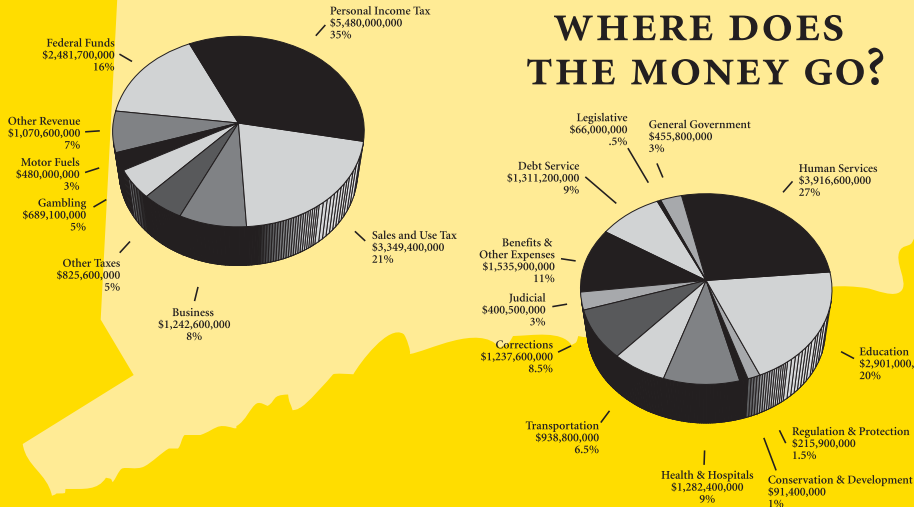
This legislation will allow municipalities to require nonresident landlords to maintain their current address on file with the city or town. This will help officials crack down on blighted properties.

Reforming the Legislature

We proposed negotiating the state budget in the open instead of behind closed doors, giving 72-hour public notice before voting on any new law and requiring a public hearing on any tax increase.

BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2005
THE 2005 GENERAL FUND AND
THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND
TOGETHER SPEND \$14.4 BILLION

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



*Revenues Exceeded Spending Leaving A General Fund Surplus of \$777 Million

Stem Cell Research

The legislature committed \$10 million a year from surplus funds for stem cell research that may lead to breakthroughs in combating illness. We also banned human cloning.

Coverage for Infertility Treatment

Women will be assured that medically necessary infertility treatment will be covered by health insurance.

Medical Malpractice Insurance

The legislature took action to help hold down doctors' rising insurance premiums and reduce medical errors. Among the provisions, the bill requires state hearings before a medical malpractice insurance increase of 7.5 per cent or more.

Restricted Driving, Child Safety Seats

The legislature voted to tighten the limits on late night driving and number of passengers that can ride with teen drivers. New rules on the use of child safety seats also should help reduce the number of injuries and deaths to young people in Connecticut.

Bi-state Long Island Sound Protection

We created an 18-member committee of New York and Connecticut citizens to work on protecting the Sound and its water quality.